Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations

Book 9
Handbooks for Water-Resources Investigations

National Field Manual for the Collection of Water-Quality Data

Chapter A7.

BIOLOGICAL INDICATORS

Revised 2003

Edited by **D.N. Myers and F.D. Wilde**

USGS
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Foreword

The mission of the Water Resources Discipline of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is to provide the information and understanding needed for wise management of the Nation's water resources. Inherent in this mission is the responsibility to collect data that accurately describe the physical, chemical, and biological attributes of water systems. These data are used for environmental and resource assessments by the USGS, other government and scientific agencies, and the general public. Reliable and objective data are essential to the credibility and impartiality of the water-resources appraisals carried out by the USGS.

The development and use of a *National Field Manual* is necessary to achieve consistency in the scientific methods and procedures used, to document those methods and procedures, and to maintain technical expertise. USGS field personnel use this manual to ensure that data collected are of the quality required to fulfill our mission.

(signed)

Robert M. Hirsch
Associate Director for Water

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Chapters of Section A, *National Field Manual for the Collection of Water-Quality Data*